

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 CANBER 03402 210848 Z

20

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ADP-00 IO-13 CIAE-00 PM-07 H-02 INR-10

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-12

RSR-01 NEA-10 /128 W

----- 013350

R 210826 Z JUN 73

FM AMEMBASSY CANBERRA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1118
INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MANILA
AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON
CNO WASHDC
CINCPAC FOR POLAD
CINCPACFLT
CINCPACREP CANBERRA

S E C R E T CANBERRA 3402

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, AS, SEATO

SUBJ: SEATO - AUSTRALIAN PARTICIPATION IN SEATO NAVAL EXERCISE

PX 49

REF: STATE 119651 (NOTAL)

1. EMBOFF REVIEWED AUSTRALIAN PARTICIPATION IN SEATO NAVAL EXERCISE PX 49 WITH DFA JUNE 21 (BLAKENEY, FIRST ASSISTANT SECRETARY, DEFENSE DIVISION). BLAKENEY MADE CLEAR THAT GOA HAS DECIDED TO WITHDRAW FROM EXERCISE, OF WHICH AUSTRALIA WAS TO HAVE BEEN DIRECTOR. HE USED MUCH THE SAME ARGUMENTS THAT AMBASSADOR PLIMSOLL HAD USED IN REFTEL (I. E., CHANGED SITUATION IN SEA, WHITLAM WILL BE VISITING CHINA AT TIME OF EXERCISE, EXERCISE TOO CLOSE TO TIME OF NEXT SEATO COUNCIL MEETING). SIMILAR APPROACHES WERE MADE BY AUSTRALIAN MISSIONS IN LONDON, BANGKOK, MANILA AND WELLINGTON.

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 CANBER 03402 210848 Z

2. IN RESPONSE TO QUESTION, BLAKENEY SAID THAT GOA DECISION WAS NOT RPT NOT TO BE TAKEN AS DECISION NOT TO PARTICIPATE IN ANY FUTURE SEATO EXERCISES. DFA IS CURRENTLY ENGAGED (EVIDENTLY AT RATHER LEISURELY PACE) IN REVIEW OF GOA SEATO POLICY. IT WILL MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS TO MINISTER FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS (WHITLAM) PRIOR TO SEATO COUNCIL MEETING IN NEW YORK SEPT. 28. WHITLAM WILL MAKE HIS DECISION ON SEATO POLICY IN LIGHT OF DFA RECOMMENDATIONS AND REPORT OF SEATO SECRETARY GENERAL ON REVISED ROLE FOR SEATO, TO BE PRESENTED AT COUNCIL MEETING. BLAKENEY COMMENTED THAT FUTURE OF NAVAL EXERCISES SHOULD BE FUNCTION OF REVIEW OF SEATO ACTIVITY AS A WHOLE, RATHER THAN OPERATING ON ITS OWN, BUILT- IN MOMENTUM.

3. DAO HAS LEARNED THAT, PRIOR TO HIS DEPARTURE FOR LONDON AND STOCKHOLM JUNE 9, MINISTER FOR DEFENSE BARNARD HAD APPROVED PARTICIPATION IN SEATO EXERCISE. DECISION TO WITHDRAW WAS TAKEN BY WHITLAM, WHO HAS VERY UNENTHUSIASTIC VIEW OF SEATO, THOUGH IT DOES NOT SEEM TO BE AS NEGATIVE AT PRESENT AS IT WAS A YEAR AGO, WHEN HE REFERRED TO ORGANIZATION AS " MORIBUND." GREEN

SECRET

NNNNMAFVVZCZ

*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** SECRET

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts:
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 21 JUN 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: collinp0
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973CANBER03402
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: RR
Errors: n/a
Film Number: n/a
From: CANBERRA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19730627/aaaajlry.tel
Line Count: 85
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: collinp0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 09 AUG 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <09-Aug-2001 by kellerpr>; APPROVED <25 FEB 2002 by collinp0>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: <DBA CORRECTED> wfs 980220
Subject: N/A
TAGS: PFOR, AS, SEATO
To: BANGKOK
CINCPAC FOR POLAD
CINCPACFLT
CNO WASHDC
EA
LONDON
MANILA

SECSTATE WASHDC
WELLINGTON

Type: TE

Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005